

## ABSTRACT

Methods are disclosed for using paramagnetic particles to concentrate or harvest cells. Methods are also disclosed for clearing a solution of disrupted biological material, 5 such as a lysate of cells or a homogenate of mammalian tissue. Methods are also disclosed for using paramagnetic particles to isolate target nucleic acids, such as RNA or DNA, from a solution cleared of disrupted biological material using the same type or a different type of paramagnetic particle. Kits are also disclosed for use with the various methods of the present invention. Nucleic acids isolated according to the present methods and using the 10 present kits are suitable for immediate use in downstream processing, without further purification.